

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 23416 311706Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 23416

EXDIS

TEHRAN FOR THE SECRETARY AND ASST. SECRETARY ATHERTON

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: PGOV, EG, US
SUBJECT: CARTER/SADAT PRESS STATEMENTS
REF: (A) CAIRO 23329, 9B0 CAIRO 23353

1. IN MY MEETING WITH FONMIN KAMEL TODAY, HE EXPRESSED REGRET ABOUT PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENTS OF TWO DAYS AGO . ON A PALESTINIAN STATE AND ISRAELI MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE WEST BANK. HE NOTED THAT THESE STATEMENTS HAD EMBARRASSED SADAT AND SEEMED TO PREJUDGE THE WEST BANK ISSUE, ALTHOUGH HE WAS SURE THIS HAD NOT BEEN PRESIDENT CARTER'S INTENTION.

2. TOLD HIM OF MY PERTINENT TALK WITH VP MUBARAK LAST NIGHT AND OF SADAT'S COMMENTS (REF B). I EMPHASIZED THAT TV INTERVIEWER HAD TAKEN PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENTS OUT OF CONTEXT AND DISTORTED THEM. ALSO DREW HIS ATTENTION TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT IN WARSAW STRESSING THAT USG DOES NOT BACK ANY ISRAELI MILITARY SETTLEMENT IN GAZA OR THE WEST BANK. PRESIDENT CARTER HAD REITERATED USG PREFERENCE FOR A PALESTINIAN
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HOMELAND OR ENTITY THERE AND THAT THIS ENTITY BE TIED INTO JORDAN RATHER THAN BEING SEPARATE AND INDEPENDENT NATION. THIS, I THOUGHT, WAS CONSISTENT WITH VIEWS PRESIDENT SADAT HAD HIMSELF EXPRESSED. I ALSO GAVE HIM FULL TEXTS OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S TV INTERVIEW IN WASHINGTON AND WARSAW PRESS CONFERENCE. (HAVE ALSO SENT TEXT OF WARSAW PRESS CONFERENCE TO VP MUBARAK

FOR SADAT'S INFO.)

3. KAMEL WAS PLEASED TO HAVE TEXT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S WARSAW STATEMENTS. HE AGREED THAT THE POSITION EXPRESSED BY PRESIDENT CARTER AT THAT PRESS CONFERENCE IS NOT TOO DIFFERENT FROM THE EGYPTIAN POSITION. HE ECHOED SADAT'S CONCERN THAT THE ISRAELIS WILL SEIZE UPON ANY STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT CARTER WHICH SEEMS TO SUPPORT THEIR POSITIONS AND USE THEM DURING JERUSALEM MEETINGS TO CLAIM USG ENDORSEMENT.

4. IN THIS CONNECTION, KAMEL ASSERTED THAT DURING ISMAILIA MINI-SUMMIT, PRIMIN BEGIN HAD SPECIFICALLY STATED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER, VP MONDALE AND U.K. PRIMIN CALLAGHAN HAD ENDORSED THE ISRAELI PEACE PROPOSALS. TOLD HIM I COULD NOT SPEAK FOR UK PRIMIN, BUT RECALLED I HAD FEW DAYS AGO MADE CLEAR TO HIM PRESIDENT CARTER'S VIEWS ON THE ISRAELI PROPOSALS. WHILE PRESIDENT CARTER REGARDS THEM AS A CONSTRUCTIVE STEP AND AS A REASONABLE NEGOTIATION POSITION, HE HAD NOT SPECIFICALLY ENDORSED THEM. SECRETARY VANCE HAD ALSO AGAIN MADE THIS CLEAR DURING THE WARSAW PRESS CONFERENCE.

5. KAMEL SAID HE KNEW OUR POSITION AND WAS GRATEFUL FOR IT. EILTS

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